IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 29, 43-45 and add new claims 54-59 as follows.

1-28. (Cancelled)

29.   (Currently Amended) A network control element, wherein, during a subscriber equipment terminated call, the network control element is adapted

to send a session invitation message to the subscriber equipment, the session invitation message including authentication information,

wherein the network control element is further adapted to determine whether it has to perform a verification of the authentication, and,

in case the network control element does not have to perform the verification, to forward a scheduled result (AuthResp) to a second network control element by including the scheduled result into the session invitation message,

wherein the network control element is adapted, in case the network control element has to perform the verification,

to receive the scheduled result (AuthResp) from another network control element, wherein the scheduled result is included in the session invitation message,

to extract the scheduled result (AuthResp) from the session invitation message and to forward the session invitation message without the scheduled result (AuthResp) to the subscriber equipment, and

to verify the an authentication result (AuthData2) with a scheduled result (AuthResp).

30.   (Original) The network control element according to claim 29, wherein the network control element is adapted to receive a response message as a response to the session invitation message from a subscriber equipment, the response message including a result of an authentication procedure performed by the subscriber equipment.

31.   (Original) The network control element according to claim 30, wherein the network control element is adapted to verify the authentication procedure result.

32.   (Original) The network control element according to claim 31, wherein the network control element is adapted to forward the response message of the subscriber equipment to an originating entity initiating the session invitation without the result of the authentication procedure in case of a positive verification.

33. (Original) The network control element according to claim 31, wherein the network control element is adapted to forward a failure message to an originating entity initiating the session invitation in case of a negative verification.

34. (Original) The network control element according to claim 29, wherein in the network the SIP (Session Initiation Protocol) protocol is adopted as a control protocol,

35. (Original) The network control element according to claim 34, wherein the session invitation message is a SIP INVITE request including an authentication header field.

36. (Original) The network control element according to claim 34, wherein the response message is a SIP response message including an authorization header field.

37. (Original) The network control element according to claim 31, wherein the network control element performing the verification is adapted to serve an originating entity initiating the session invitation.

38. (Original) The network control element according to claim 31, wherein the network control element performing the verification is adapted to serve the subscriber equipment.

39-42. (Cancelled)

43.   (Currently Amended) The network control element according to claim 29, wherein the network control element is further adapted to receive a response message from the subscriber equipment, the response message including ~~a~~ the authentication result ~~(AuthData2)~~ of the authentication procedure and network authentication information ~~(AuthData3)~~ which is used by the subscriber equipment to perform an authentication of the network.

44.   (Currently Amended) The network control element according to claim 43, wherein the network control element is further adapted to determine a network authentication result ~~(AuthData4)~~ in response to the network authentication information ~~(AuthData4)~~ and to send the network authentication result ~~(AuthData4)~~ to the subscriber equipment.

45.   (Currently Amended) The network control element according to claim 31, wherein the network control element is adapted to repeat the verification for a predetermined number of times, wherein different authentication information ~~(AuthData1)~~ are used.

46-53. (Cancelled)

54. (New) A method of performing authentication of a subscriber during a subscriber equipment terminated call, comprising

sending a session invitation message from a network control element to the subscriber equipment, the session invitation message including authentication information,

determining, by the network control element, whether the network control element has to perform a verification of the authentication or not, and,

in case the network control element does not have to perform the verification, forwarding a scheduled result to a second network control element by including the scheduled result into the session invitation message,

in case the network control element has to perform the verification,

receiving the scheduled result from another network control element,

wherein the scheduled result is included in the session invitation message,

extracting the scheduled result from the session invitation message and

forwarding the session invitation message without the scheduled result to the subscriber equipment, and

verifying an authentication result with a scheduled result.

55. (New) The method according to claim 54, further comprising

receive a response message in the network control element as a response to the session invitation message from a subscriber equipment, the response message including a result of an authentication procedure performed by the subscriber equipment.

56.   (New) The method according to claim 55, further comprising

verifying, by the network control element, the authentication procedure result.

57.   (New) The method according to claim 56, further comprising

forwarding the response message of the subscriber equipment from the network control element to an originating entity initiating the session invitation without the result of the authentication procedure in case of a positive verification.

58.   (New) The method according to claim 56,

forward a failure message from the network control element to an originating entity initiating the session invitation in case of a negative verification.

59.   (New) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium to perform authentication of a subscriber during a subscriber equipment terminated call, the computer program comprising computer code for causing a processor to perform the following:

sending a session invitation message from a network control element to the subscriber equipment, the session invitation message including authentication information,

determining, by the network control element, whether the network control element has to perform a verification of the authentication or not, and,

in case the network control element does not have to perform the verification, forwarding a scheduled result to a second network control element by including the scheduled result into the session invitation message,

in case the network control element has to perform the verification,

receiving the scheduled result from another network control element, wherein the scheduled result is included in the session invitation message,

extracting the scheduled result from the session invitation message and forwarding the session invitation message without the scheduled result to the subscriber equipment, and

verifying an authentication result with a scheduled result.